

SECRET

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Office of Legislative Counsel

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1. Mr. Fred Rhodes, of the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, called to state that Mr. Robert Sprague, Special Consultant to the Committee, desired as soon as possible any information regarding the existence of two heavy Soviet bombers which were the subject of newspaper articles on 15 February. Mr. Sprague desired our evaluation of these aircraft, if in fact there were such aircraft, and their range, ceiling and speed. The Acting DD/I informed me that at present the Air Force was carrying the ball for the intelligence community in evaluating these reports, and with the approval of the DCI I suggested to Mr. Sprague that he call General Samford, Air Force Director of Intelligence. Mr. Sprague asked me whether CIA had reached any evaluation of its own, and I stated that we were working closely with the Air Force, whose initial responsibility it is.

2. Mr. Sprague also desires to include in his Top Secret report (which will be in one copy only) the names of those CIA officers who briefed him. I informed him that we would prefer that he indicate ^{only} that he had been briefed by officials of CIA as we preferred to remain anonymous in these matters. He stated that the names of all other persons who had briefed him had been included in his report and asked that we allow him to have the names in full for inclusion.

2. The DCI has talked to Mr. Sprague both about the Soviet aircraft, concerning which Mr. Sprague had inquired of the Agency, and also to request him please to omit the names of CIA personnel from his report. Mr. Sprague has agreed to do so. 24 Feb. 54